

From: John Moiseve @ MCS [mailto:john@mcsphones.com]
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 9:54 PM
To: Frazier, Tim
Subject: Idea for the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future
Tim,

Thanks for offering to pass on ideas to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future.

I am asking if they would please consider a serious study of sending all the spent fuel to the Sun. And, let's eventually include all extremely hazardous material.

I know this solution has been discounted many times in the past by many groups for various reasons (mostly for safety), every since it was first discussed in the early 60's - as our missiles and rockets programs were being developed. However, when you really look at all the options in the long term, getting the stuff off the planet is the only viable one left. Plus technology has come along way.

Bad launches and other safety concerns are valid, but there are so many options for assisting safe launches now, and especially because we would be dealing with solid fuel rockets to get past Earth's gravitational pull, the payloads don't need to be restricted on G forces.

We have enough reliable launch technology right now that that we can start with lighter payloads of some of the worst toxins know to man - that have been accumulating around the globe for years and are growing at exponential rates. Even the various proposals for processing spent fuel leaves some horrible stuff to be contended with.

We need to developed high payload launch systems for deep space exploration anyhow.

The cost per ton to get it into a near earth orbit (for aggregation and a nudge to the sun) is not unreasonably out of line even at this time, say compared to the eventual cost per ton for the initial Yucca Mountain project, and it will only get better as efficiencies are realized. Plus Yucca was just the start.

Developing a system for safely transporting these wastes to the Sun, will actually be giving an immediate boost to our space program and the entire USA space industry.

Putting the collective talent of the USA to work on this can surely only result in innovative results and rapidly reduced costs-per-ton, while benefiting many other programs and industries along the way.

All the \$ Billions that (the USA and) other countries will need to develop their own repositories/solutions can also go into the planning and development of the system, with the USA spearheading.

At the very least the rest of the world could eventually be paying into the system the USA develops - to ship their extreme hazardous waste off the planet.

According to our own government web sites, Yucca Mountain (or any other location) would have been only the first of such sites that will be needed.

So, how many more sites are really needed for the next 100 years of waste production? For 500 years? Will the next sites be inferior, the same, or superior, to a Yucca Mountain?

Before the world takes this first major step down this road shouldn't all of this be completely mapped out?

The most troublesome thought to me is if we proceed with our first repository (or similar solution), other countries will naturally follow suit. How about the design, construction, initiation, security and maintenance of those repositories?

Should there be problems, how much will it cost to clean up their mistakes? Or could it be too late by the time we find out something has happened? The cost could then be unthinkable.

Very importantly, do we become the World's watchdogs? By who's authority - or do we force the issue? How much will that cost - and in how many ways?

Already some countries (including some local governments in the USA) and contractors have been tempting less developed or prosperous countries to be the repository of their hazardous wastes. Mostly under much less than the safest of conditions.

How is it best to be remembered? As the generation that made the decision to go down a road that, in spite of our best intentions, will ultimately make the very planet that we live on unlivable? Or, as responsible stewards of this planet, for setting a prudent course for the future of all mankind?

If you are interested I have other examples I can send. Your serious study and consideration of the matter would be greatly appreciated.

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